Wilcox-Hildreth Public School

Two Towns, Four Counties, One Great School

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A Message from the Superintendent

Looking Ahead at the Future of Our Schools and Facilities

Dear Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools Patrons,

One of the most important responsibilities we have as a school district is making sure our students have safe, welcoming, and effective places to learn. At the same time, we have a responsibility to be good stewards of the resources our communities have entrusted to us.

Over the past several years, the Board of Education has been working to address the facility needs of Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools. As we look toward the future, we want our patrons to be part of that conversation.

Where We Have Been

During the 2017–2018 school year, the Board of Education began developing a multi-phase plan to address the facility needs of the district. The Board decided to begin by addressing some of the most immediate needs at the Wilcox site.

That first phase resulted in a significant investment in our school and community. The project included:

- A secured entrance and new office area
- Two new classrooms, including a science lab and FCS lab
- A new kitchen and commons area
- A new competition gymnasium
- New locker rooms

The project was financed through district funds and a lease-purchase agreement. The principal amount of the lease-purchase was $6.1 million to be paid back over seven years, and was paid off a year early. The district also invested approximately $3 million in cash funds toward the project.

These improvements have provided our students and community with some outstanding spaces that will serve us for many years.

Where We Are Today

With the first phase completed, the Board of Education has begun having conversations about what the next phase of our facility plan might look like.

These conversations are not simply about buildings. They are about how we can best serve our students, support our staff, use our resources wisely, and make sure our district is positioned for the future.

One of the ideas the Board is exploring is restructuring our grade configuration while continuing to operate schools in both Wilcox and Hildreth.

One possible configuration would be:

PK–6 at one site
7–12 at the other site

Having all of our elementary students together at one location could provide some opportunities to better utilize our staff and resources. It could allow our elementary teachers to collaborate more closely, improve the use of special-area teachers and special education staff, and create additional opportunities for students and staff to work together across grade levels.

This is **one option being considered, not a decision that has been made.** Before any decisions are made, we want to listen to our parents, students, staff, and patrons.

What Are the Facility Needs?

As the Board has looked carefully at our current buildings, several areas have been identified that may need significant repairs, renovation, or replacement.

Wilcox Site – Potential Renovation Projects

- Addressing water intrusion in the two-story building
- Repairing or replacing the track, as the existing base has deteriorated
- Improvements to the track bleachers
- Renovation of the pool locker rooms

Hildreth Site – Potential Renovation Projects

- Replacing the aging boiler system and upgrading HVAC
- Electrical upgrades needed to support a new HVAC system
- Kitchen remodeling
- Bathroom renovations on the second and third floors

Could New Construction Be Part of the Solution?

The Board has also discussed whether some of these needs may be better addressed through new construction rather than continuing to invest significant resources into older portions of our buildings.

Some of the ideas being considered include:

Wilcox Site

- New ground-level construction to replace the existing two-story building

Hildreth Site

- New ground-level construction to replace the existing three-story building
- A new bus barn
- New football field bleachers and a crow's nest

Again, these are **ideas for discussion and consideration, not final plans.**

We Want to Hear From You

As a school district, we know that our schools belong to all of us. The decisions we make about our facilities will impact not only our students and staff, but also our families, taxpayers, businesses, and communities for many years to come.

We also understand that people will have different ideas about what should be done. Some may believe we should renovate our existing buildings. Others may believe new construction makes more sense. Some may support changing our grade configuration, while others may have concerns about that approach.

We want to hear all of those perspectives.

The Board of Education will continue gathering information and studying the options available to us. Before moving forward, we want to have meaningful conversations with the people who live, work, raise families, and invest in our communities.

As part of that process, we will be asking our patrons to provide feedback about our current facilities, potential improvements, and possible changes to how we organize our schools.

Your input matters.

Our goal is not simply to build or remodel a building. Our goal is to make thoughtful decisions that will put Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools in the best possible position to serve our students for the next 20, 30, and even 50 years.

We are fortunate to have strong communities that care deeply about our schools. I encourage you to take the opportunity to share your thoughts, ask questions, and be part of this important conversation.

Thank you for your continued support of Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools and for everything you do to make our schools and communities great places to live and raise a family.

We encourage you to take a few minutes to **complete the patron survey** and share your thoughts and priorities. Links to the survey will be shared on our school website and social media pages. You can also scan the QR Code below with your phone to access the survey.

Sincerely,

Justin Patterson
Superintendent
Wilcox-Hildreth Public Schools